

Kimball honored

National Park Service Water Resources Division Chief Dan Kimball received the prestigious 1995 Stephen Tyng Mather Award for national park resource conservation at the annual Association of National Park Rangers Ranger Rendezvous in St. Paul, Minnesota, last



NPS Water Resources Chief Dan Kimball

November. Named for the first NPS director, the award is given annually by the National Parks and Conservation Association to a federal employee for exemplary efforts to protect national park resources. Kimball was recognized for his many significant protections that have been won for national park resources, especially water resources, in large part due to his fine ability to bring into agreement opposing views in controversial issues.

Since he became branch chief for planning and evaluation in the NPS Water Resources Division in 1983, Kimball has consistently led the fight to preserve national park resources. He was instrumental in preventing the siting of a

nuclear waste repository next to Canyonlands National Park, Utah, in 1985. Later, as the NPS representative working with an international joint commission, he orchestrated inquiries into the danger posed to Glacier National Park, Montana, by the proposed Cabin Creek coal mine. Permits for the mine were denied and the facility never opened. He also played a major role in successful efforts to minimize damage to Grand Canyon National Park caused by water releases from the Glen Canyon Dam. And when the threat of geothermal leasing outside Yellowstone National Park was imminent, Kimball helped forge a compact with Montana that put strict limitations on the allocation of surface and subsurface geothermal waters. Most recently, during restructuring, Kimball has been helping to lead the drive to preserve the NPS scientific ability to protect

parks. "Good science, along with adequate inventory and monitoring capabilities, is crucial to preserving park resources," Kimball commented.

Recipients of the Mather Award have demonstrated initiative and resourcefulness in promoting environmental protection; they have taken direct action where others have hesitated, and they have placed commitment to principle ahead of job security in the pursuit of good stewardship of the national parks. The honor included a \$2,500 cash grant donated by Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company of Kansas City, Missouri.